

Remarks

Claims 1, 4, and 6-10 are presently pending in the application, with claim 1 being currently amended.

Claim 1, the only independent claim, is currently amended so as to more clearly define the invention to resolve the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections and overcome the present 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, as discussed below. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found throughout the specification.

Rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

In rejecting claims 1, 4, and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, Examiner asserts that the specification does not appear to have originally disclosed "a second diagonal rib...formed within the other of said two hollow projecting sections is formed axisymmetrical to said diagonal rib formed within said projecting section." See Official Action, pages 2-3.

In view thereof, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the second diagonal rib.

Thus, Applicant submits that the 112 rejections, first paragraph, of claims 1, 4, and 6-10 are overcome and must be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Concerning the rejections of claims 1, 4, and 6-10 under U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Examiner states that the phrases "one of said width side surfaces..." and "one of said width side surfaces of which is provided on said sheathing surface" present ambiguities. More specifically, the phrases present an article but fail to further set forth any features of the article. Also, Examiner asserts that it is not clear as to what is being defined by "said second diagonal rib...is formed axisymmetrical to said diagonal rib formed within said projecting section provided on said sheathing section, with a line as a symmetric axis ...passing an intermediate point between said first diagonal rib...and said second diagonal rib". In addition, Examiner alleges that the hollow portion of the hollow side panel section and the respective hollow portion of the two

hollow projections sections that are connected are not themselves divided by either of the respective diagonal ribs otherwise, any hollow portion might be considered as connected to any other hollow portion no matter what ribs or walls lie between them. See Official Action, pages 3-5.

In view thereof and as discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the second diagonal rib as well as remove the alleged ambiguities with respect to the "one of said width side surfaces..." and "one of said width side surfaces of which is provided on said sheathing surface."

Thus, Applicant submits that the 112 rejections, second paragraph, of claims 1, 4, and 6-10 are overcome and must be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4, and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese reference 7-207930 (JP '930). In rejecting the claims, Examiner alleges that JP '930 discloses a form panel 10 having hollow sheathing sections (20, 22, 14?), bent out at right angles extending opposite to a facing side 12 of the panel; two hollow projections can be seen as within 20b; and, a diagonal rib 22 is provided within each hollow section. See Official Action, page 6. Applicants respectfully disagree, particularly in view of claim 1 as now amended, as discussed next.

It is well established that "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). For the following reasons, JP '930 clearly fail to teach each and every element of Applicants' invention as recited in independent claim 1.

As can be seen below via a comparison of FIG. 8 of the present application and FIG. 1 of JP '930 (shown in partial), JP '930 does not at all disclose the "two hollow projections" as described in the claimed invention. More specifically, as required by claim 1, two hollow projecting sections 60, which extend in a vertical direction, are provided on ends of an outside

surface of at least one of said hollow side panel sections in a protruding manner toward the outside of said hollow side panel sections. [underlining for emphasis]. Clearly, this structure is not disclosed in JP '930.

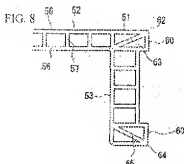
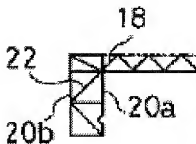


FIG. 8 of the present application



partial FIG. 1 of JP '930

Furthermore, regarding the two hollow projections of the present invention, as described in lines 14 to 21 on page 17 of the specification of the present application, the present invention obtains the following effect: “since two projecting sections 60 which extend in the vertical direction are provided on the outside surfaces 58 of the side panel sections 53, when the form panels 50 are erected, a space 59 is formed between adjacent form panels 50, which is enclosed by the side panel sections 53 and the projecting sections 60. This space 59 can serve the function of collecting any concrete which leaks out from the contacting portion between the projecting sections 60 which adjoin on the concrete placing surface 51 side of the form panel 50, and consequently concrete does not leak outside the form panel 50”. Therefore, with the “two hollow projections” structure of the present invention, which is not disclosed in JP '930, the above-described effect can be obtained.

In view of all of the above, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 1, and its dependent claims, over JP '930 is overcome and must be withdrawn.

Conclusion

As a result of the remarks given herein, Applicants submit that the rejections of the pending claims have been overcome. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in

condition for allowance and request allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes any detailed language of the claims requires further discussion, he is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. Applicants also have submitted all fees believed to be necessary herewith. Should any additional fees or surcharges be deemed necessary, the Examiner has authorization to charge fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
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